

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03142 180339Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 SS-15
SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /091 W
-----052415 180345Z /64

O 180320Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 512
DOE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SOE GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3142

EA/K FOR RICH

DEPT FOR OES/NET/MD FOR D. HOYLE

DOE FOR J. VANDERRYN AND R. WILLIT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, KS
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT OF MINISTER OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES CHANG

REF: SEOUL 2716

1. DURING APRIL 17 DISCUSSION WITH MER MINISTER CHANG HE
EXPRESSED MORE REFLECTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD TIMING OF DECISIONS
CONCERNING OPTIMUM MIX OF FUELS TO BE USED FOR ADDITIONAL
ELECTRIC GENERATING CAPACITY SCHEDULED FOR PURCHASE DURING
REMAINDER OF YEAR. CONTRARY TO EARLIER PLANS OF KOREA ELECTRIC
CO. ORIGIN, HE STATED THAT THE DATE FOR REQUESTING BIDS ON
NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS 7 AND 8 HAVE NOT BEEN FIXED. MER IS
STILL CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF COMMITTING AN ADDITIONAL
2000 MWE BLOCK OF GENERATING CAPACITY (NUCLEAR PLANTS 7 AND 8)
TO NUCLEAR. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE THERMAL PLANTS FUELED
WITH IMPORTED BITUMINOUS COAL WHICH WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03142 180339Z

ECONOMIC IN TERMS OF MEETING PEAK-LOAD REQUIREMENTS.

2. CHANG'S CAUTION IS CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS APPROACH,
WEIGHING AN OPTION BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION.
SHORT-TERM FINANCING ADVANTAGES (LOWER INTEREST COST
AND FAVORABLE CASH FLOW ASPECTS), SHORTER CONSTRUCTION
SCHEDULES, INSENSITIVITY TO POLITICAL ISSUES ATTENDING

USE OF NUCLEAR FUELS, AND PROJECTED FUTURE NEED OF A
GREATER PERCENTAGE OF LOAD-FOLLOWING GENERATING CAPACITY
ARE CONSIDERED PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGES OF USING COAL.

3. CHANG ALSO STATED THAT MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND
RESOURCES HAS RECEIVED \$213,000 FROM UNDP FOR TECHNICAL
EXPERT SERVICES, THIRTY MAN MONTHS, TO DEVELOP DATA AND
PERFORM ANALYSIS PERTINENT TO AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR
LONG-TERM KOREAN ACQUISITION AND USE OF ENERGY. UNDER
ANOTHER FOUR-MAN MONTH ARRANGEMENT, FOUR UNDP ENERGY EXPERTS
REPORTED TO MER APRIL 1 TO RENDER SHORT-TERM ENERGY PLANNING
ASSISTANCE. UNDP IS ALSO PROVIDING \$30,000 IN SUPPORT
OF OVERSEAS TRAINING OF A KOREAN ENERGY EXPERT. MER
ALSO HAS TENTATIVE COMMITMENT FROM ECONOMIC PLANNING
BOARD OF \$300,000 FOR ENERGY PLANNING USE.

4. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE LONG-RANGE VIEW BEING
TAKEN BY CHANG ON ENERGY, DESPITE OBVIOUS PRESSURES
FOR MORE RAPID ACTION. IN RESPONSE TO HIS STATEMENT
THAT THE ENERGY SCENE WAS IN RAPID TRANSITION, I URGED
A CAREFUL, FLEXIBLE APPROACH. HE STATED HIS AGREEMENT
AND INDICATED THAT A MAJOR REASON FOR HIS TRIP TO THE
U.S. WAS TO GAIN GREATER INSIGHT OF WHAT THE FUTURE
HOLDS IN THE ENERGY AREA.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 03142 180339Z

MEASURED APPROACH WHICH SHOULD MAXIMIZE U.S. OPPORTUNITIES
TO PARTICIPATE.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL03142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-0235
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780445/aaaablof.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 608907ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 2716
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2932141
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON VISIT OF MINISTER OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES CHANG
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, KS, (CHANG HE)
To: STATE DOE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/608907ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014